

FACT SHEET
Criminal Justice and Earned Income Findings
Drug Court Evaluation
Conducted by:
Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute
University of Washington
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INTRODUCTION

Reduced criminal justice involvement is one of the major objectives for drug courts. As such, the arrest results summarized below are among the most central indicators of drug court success.

BACKGROUND

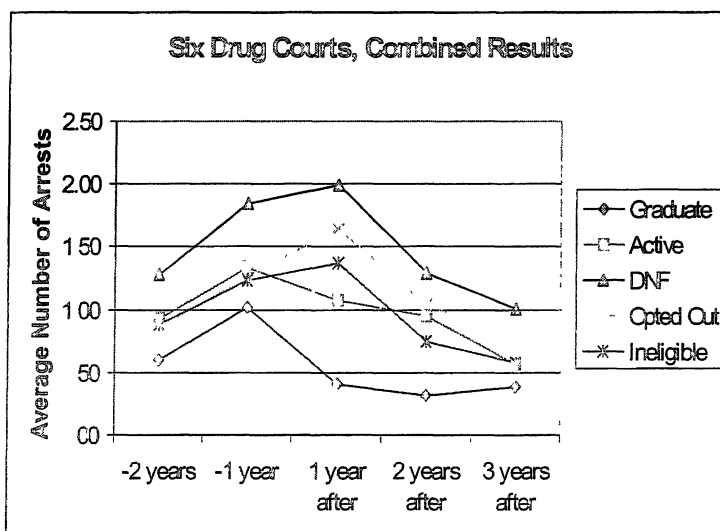
Arrest analyses were based on six drug courts: King, Pierce, Spokane, Thurston, Skagit, and Kitsap Counties. Drug Court participants were grouped into the following categories:

- Graduates—Individuals who graduated (i.e., successfully completed) from drug court
- Actives—Individuals still actively participating in the drug court program
- Did Not Finish (DNF)—Individuals who were admitted to a drug court program and either failed or dropped out
- Opted Out—Persons who met all criteria, were offered entry to drug court, but who personally declined to participate.
- Ineligibles—Persons who passed an initial legal screen and were referred to the court, but on closer examination were found to be ineligible on either legal or clinical grounds.

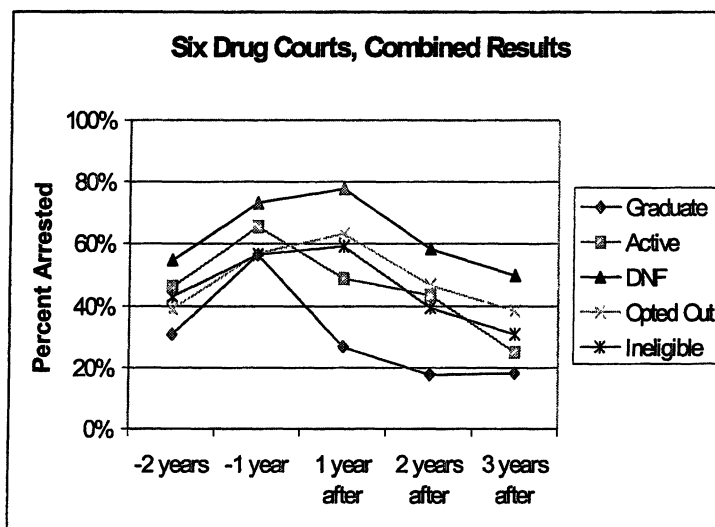
Arrest data were obtained from records maintained by the Washington State Patrol. Employment data were obtained from files maintained by the Employment Security Department.

FINDINGS

- Drug court Graduates had fewer re-arrests following drug court referral than any other group of drug court participants:



- A smaller percentage of drug court Graduates were re-arrested following drug court referral than any of the other drug court participants:



OTHER FINDINGS OF INTEREST:

- Graduates had a lower rate of court filings post-drug court referral than any of the other drug court participant groups (note: "court filings" indicate that a prosecutor filed charges with the Superior Court with the intent of having the case adjudicated).
- Graduates had zero or near zero rates of imprisonment in the post-drug court referral period.
- Graduate groups, and only Graduate groups, showed systematic and substantial increases in incomes following referral to drug courts.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- Outcomes for offenders who graduate from drug courts are generally better than for offenders who do not enter or do not graduate from drug courts.
- The patterns of improvement vary in several ways across the counties. No single court showed overall superiority.

END NOTES

Analyses summarized in this report were part of a study supervised by Gary Cox, Ph D., University of Washington Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute

This report only includes data through March, 1999

Full reports of the Drug Court Evaluation are available from the Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (DASA), P O. Box 45330, Olympia, WA 98504-5330.